

REMARKS

Overview of the Office Action

The information disclosure statement filed May 15, 2006 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2) because a legible copy of each cited foreign patent was not included.

Claims 1-5, 11, and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent App. Pub. No. 2002/0075925 ("Clayton").

Claim 13 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Clayton.

Claims 13-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,947,460 ("Spath").

Claims 6-10, 16, and 17 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Status of the claims

Claims 1 and 7 have been amended

Claims 2-6 and 8-17 have been canceled.

Claims 18-22 have been newly added.

Claims 1, 7, and 18-22 are now pending.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants' submit herewith an information disclosure statement including a legible copy of each cited foreign patent.

Allowable subject matter

Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 6 and intervening claim 2. Therefore, claim 1 is now allowable.

Claim 18 has been newly added and includes the subject matter of original claims 1, and 2, and the allowable subject matter of claim 8. Therefore, claim 18 is allowable.

Claims 19 and 20 have been newly added. Claims 19 and 20 corresponds to original claims 9 and 10, respectively. Claims 19 and 20 depend from allowable claim 18 and are, therefore, also allowable.

Claim 21 has been newly added and includes the subject matter of claim 1 and allowable subject matter of claim 16. Therefore, claim 21 is allowable.

Claim 22 has been newly added. Claim 22 corresponds to original claim 11. Claim 22 depends from allowable claim 21 and is, therefore, also allowable.

Rejection of claims 1-5, 11, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

The Office Action states that Clayton teaches all of Applicants' recited elements.

As previously described, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 2 and the allowable subject matter of claim 6. Therefore, claim 1 is now allowable over Clayton.

Claims 2-5, 11, and 12 have been canceled.

Rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action further states that Clayton Applicants' recited elements.

Claim 13 has been canceled. Therefore, this rejection is now moot.

Rejection of claims 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

The Office Action states that Spath teaches all of Applicants' recited elements.

Claims 13-15 have been canceled. Therefore, this rejection is now moot.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections, and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any comments, questions, suggestions, or objections, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned in order to facilitate reaching a resolution of any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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